(b) The development measures in the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

(i) Five projects with annual production capacity of 10.83 million tonnes were completed with sanctioned capital outlay of Rs. 479.59 crores.

(ii) Three projects namely Samaleshwari (3.00 million tonnes per year), Bharatpur Augmentation (1.5 million tonnes per year) and Ananta Augmentation (1.50 million tonnes per year) have been taken up for implementation. Three advance action projects namely Hingula, Bhubaneswari and Kaniah are under implementation.

(iii) Besides the above, various programmes for welfare, community development and infrastructure improvement were taken up.

(c) For the Ninth Five Year Plan allocation for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Legnite for formulation of 9th Five Year Plan, is Rs. 1800 crores.

(d) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) plant to increase coal proudction from 37.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 47.25 million tonnes by the terminal year of the IX Five Year Plan (2001-02).

Operation of mines in Raniganj Coalfields

2135. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfield Limited has ceased operation of some mines in Raniganj Coalfields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some unions have objected to this ceasation of operation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The production in six highly loss making mines of ECL has been suspended.

(c) and (d) Some trade unions have protested against the suspension of production in these mines. But before suspension of production from these mines the matter was discussed by the management in several Joint Consultative Committee Meetings. Also a fact-finding Committee has been constituted by the management to go into the details of the circumstances leading to the suspension of the mining operation. It has also been informed to the trade union organisations that the workers of these mines have been suitably redeployed in other mines of ECL and no worker has been laid off, nor the service conditions of the workers have been affected.

New Projects by BCCL

2136. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) number of new projects started by BCCL since its inception;

(b) amount spent on each of them giving names;

(c) present state of each project, viable and non-viable;

(d) total loss suffered in each non-viable project;

(e) reasons for non-viability and loss; and

(f) steps taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (f) Since inception, BCCL has taken up 40 new projects. Out of these, 7 projects are under implementation; 29 projects have been completed and in 4 projects coal reserves have been exhausted. Details of these projects

name, expenditure incurred till March, 1998, viable/non-viable, losses suffered in non- viable projects, reasons for non-viability/loss and steps taken on them) are annexed. [*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 65]

Raising of Coal from BCCL Collieries

2137. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether tender has been published to raise coal from four BCCL collieries for private agencies, if so, the facts in detail and also the reasons therefor;

(b) whether raising of coal by the private agencies is prohibited; and

(c) if so, the justification for the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir. It has been stated by BCCL that Global tenders had been invited for introduction of an appropriate technology for optimisation of coal production in some of coal mines in BCCL. The scope of tender provides for supply of equipment, installation and commissioning of equipment and successful operation thereafter in the following underground mines on gain/risk sharing basis:

1. Moonidih
2. North Amlabad
3. Bhalgora
4. Pootki Balihari

(b) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is refering to contract labour. If so, raising of coal by contract labour is prohibited vide Government of India, Ministry of Labour Notification No. S.O. 2063 dated June 21, 1988.

(c) Notification dated 21.6.1988 is not applicable as the tender is for introduction of technology, its absorption and supply of equipment with performance guarantee and not for raising of coal through contractors labour.

Joint sampling of coal at power station

2138. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end was in vogue in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the practice has been abandoned unilaterally by the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Gujarat has requested for the revival of the practice;

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(g) if Government does not propose to reintroduce the system, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (g) Upto 1982 coal sampling was done by the coal company at the loading end. In August 1982, the then Ministry of Energy decided that on a trial basis sampling and quality checking should be undertaken jointly at the loading end. Later in December, 1986 the Ministry of Energy decided that sampling and quality checking should be undertaken by an independent organisation under Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at the loading end. As the CEA could not implement this decision, in October, 1991, the Committee of Secretaries decided that sampling and quality will be determined by the Coal Controller at the loading end. This decision was reiterated in June, 1995 by the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure with a modification that legally enforceable contracts are to be entered into between the supplier and consumer and sampling and quality should be determined jointly at the loading end.

Since most of the SEBs are not cooperating with coal companies in this